Takahashi-san
is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。

TAKAHASHI-SAN IS LISTENING.

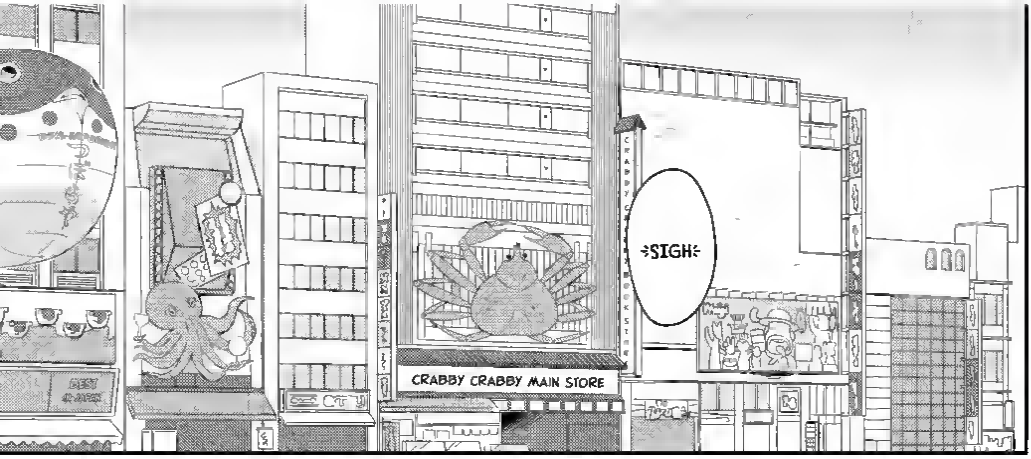
高橋さんが聞いている。

CHAPTER 61: LISTENING ON THE OTHER END OF THE PHONE

Shall we eavesdrop?

YU HOKUO

Takahashi-san
is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。

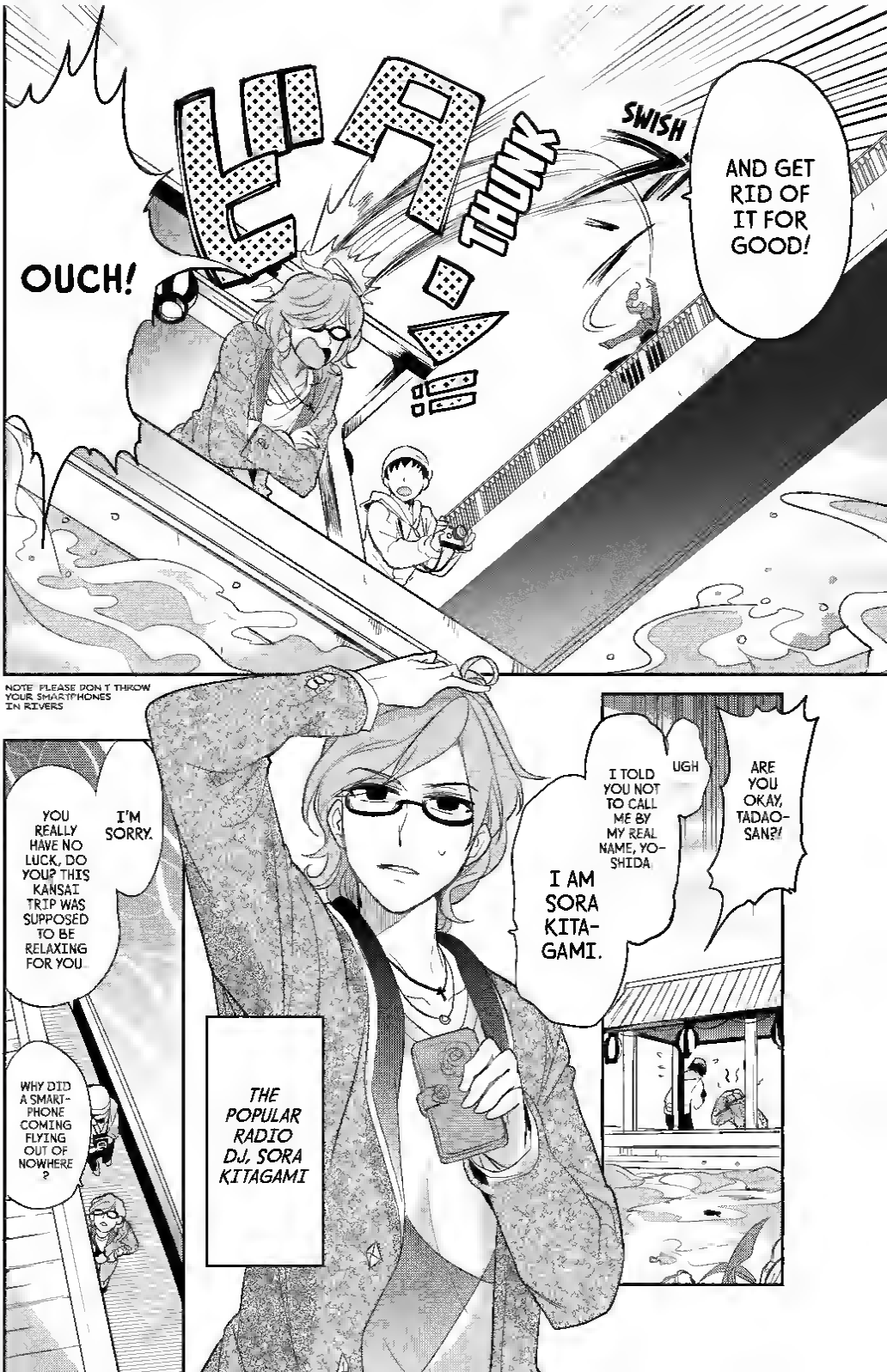

=SIGH=
CRABBY CRABBY MAIN STORE

ENA...
I WONDER IF SHE'S DOING ALL RIGHT WITH HER NEW PRODUCER.

NO, I'M SURE THINGS MUST BE GOING WONDERFULLY.
AFTER ALL, SHE'S SUCH A TALENTED GIRL.

ENA, AT THAT MOMENT...
WE'RE DOING SOME PROMOTIONAL STUFF USING JAPANESE-STYLE CLOTHING
I HAD A JAPANESE CASTLE BUILT OVERNIGHT JUST FOR YOU!
SAVE ME, SAEJIMA!
I MADE YOU DO ALL SORTS OF THINGS THAT NEVER COULD HAVE SHOWCASED YOUR TALENTS...
I MEAN, WEARING FULL BODY MASCOT COSTUMES...
I WAS THE ONE WHO DISCOVERED YOUR TALENT,
BUT I FOUND MYSELF UNABLE TO HELP YOU MOVE FORWARD
ENA, AT THAT MOMENT...
HERE'S YOUR GOLD-PLATED PLATINUM, AIR-CONDITIONED MASCOT OUTFIT!
I HAVE ARRANGED ONLY THE BEST FOR YOU, ENA-SAN!
PICK UP THE PHONE, SAEJIMA!

ENA TAK. HASHI
INCOMING
ENA?
SHE'S CALLING ME?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW DELUSIONAL I'VE BECOME I'M ASHAMED OF MYSELF
TO PROVE I CAN GET OVER THIS...
I'LL TAKE MY CELL PHONE...
GULP
THIS IS JUST AN ILLUSION!
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE.
SHE'S ALREADY ON THE ROAD TO STARDOM.
I'M JUST VISUALIZ-ING MY LINGERING REGRET.


OUCH!
THUNK
SWISH
AND GET RID OF IT FOR GOOD!
NOTE: PLEASE DON'T THROW YOUR SMARTPHONES IN RIVERS
ARE YOU OKAY, TADAO-SAN?!
UGH
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME BY MY REAL NAME, YOSHIDA.
I AM SORA KITAGAMI.
I'M SORRY.
YOU REALLY HAVE NO LUCK, DO YOU? THIS KANSAI TRIP WAS SUPPOSED TO BE RELAXING FOR YOU.
WHY DID A SMARTPHONE COMING FLYING OUT OF NOWHERE?
THE POPULAR RADIO DJ, SORA KITAGAMI

HMPH.
I HAVE NO USE FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S PHONE
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
MAYBE IT FELL OUT OF A PLANE?
MY HEAD WOULD BE WORSE OFF IF THAT HAD BEEN THE CASE.
IF SOMETHING WERE GOING TO DROP OUT OF THE SKY, I'D PREFER SOMETHING MORE DRAMATIC.
LIKE A BEAUTIFUL GIRL
HEY, GARBAGE.
BECOME A CUSHION FOR ME.
OF COURSE!
IF I WERE BEING REALLY PICKY, A SADISTIC...
NO, THE QUEEN OF SADISTS!
GOODNESS, WHAT AM I PICTURING?
I WONDER WHY SHE CAME TO MIND AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
A CALL?
ENA TAKAHASHI
INCOMING

A BEAUTIFUL GIRL!
EEP! DON'T TELL ME...
YOUR HEAD'S NOT OKAY AFTER ALL?
OH! YOU PICKED UP! SAEJIMA, IT'S ME!
ENA TAKAHASHI! THIS VOICE IS THE REAL DEAL!
N-NO WAY! IT'S PROBABLY JUST SOME GIRL WITH THE SAME NAME
H-HELLO?
IS THIS KIND OF COINCI-DENCE REALLY POSSIBLE?
SAE-JIMA!
SAEJIMA? WHO'S THAT? THAT MUST BE WHO THIS PHONE BELONGS TO
IS THAT THEIR FIRST AND LAST NAME? SAE JIMA?
SOUNDS LIKE SOME LATIN SOCCER PLAYER

HEH HEH HEH I AM JUST TOO KIND!
ALL RIGHT. I'LL TELL HER THAT I FOUND THIS PHONE.
I'LL MAKE YOU REMEMBER.
ACTUALLY, I WANT TO REMEMBER TOO.
I'M A FAMOUS FORMER IDOL AND DJ.
THERE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE A GIRL WHO WOULDN'T FALL FOR ME
THAT'S RIGHT! I'LL SHOW YOU JUST HOW NICE I AM.
SO KIND!
I LOVE HIM!
ENA TAKAHASHI, YOU WILL BE MINE AT LAST!
AND THEN, AS THE ONLY WOMAN WHO HAS NEVER FALLEN FOR ME...
OH, HELLO. ACTUALLY--
SAEJIMA!
I AM THE EMPEROR OF LOVE HIMSELF, SORA KITAGAMI!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY A WORD. JUST HEAR ME OUT!
UNDER-STOOD!
SO YOUR FIRST ORDER IS TO KEEP ME SILENT...

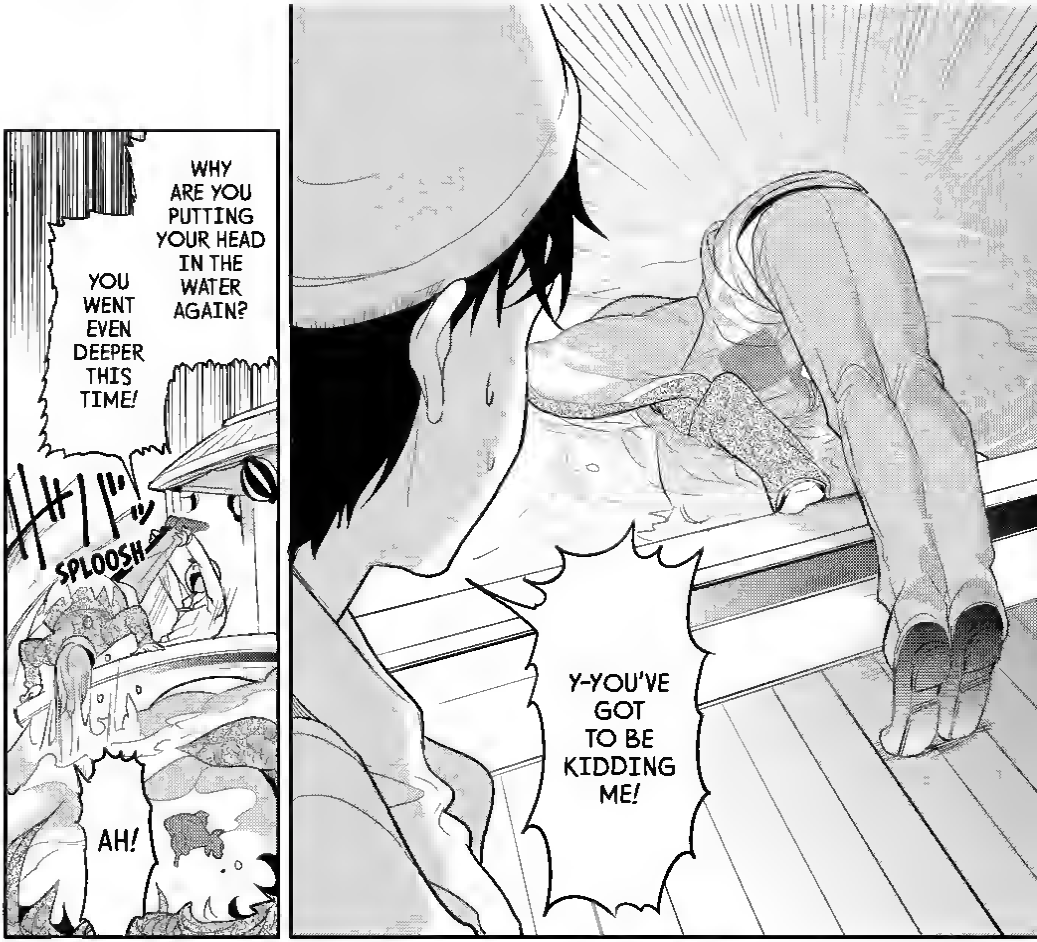
WAIT!
WHAT AM I SAYING?!

DAMMIT. IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
THE MORE I TALK TO ENA TAKA-HASHI...
.. THE MORE I BEGIN TO ENJOY FOLLOW-ING HER ORDERS.
IT GETS ME SO STRANGE-LY EXCIT-ED!
I HAVE TO TELL HER I FOUND THIS PHONE
I CAN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO GET CARRIED AWAY!
HONESTLY, I'M SUFFO-CATING RIGHT NOW
SUFFO-CATING SUFFO. CATING

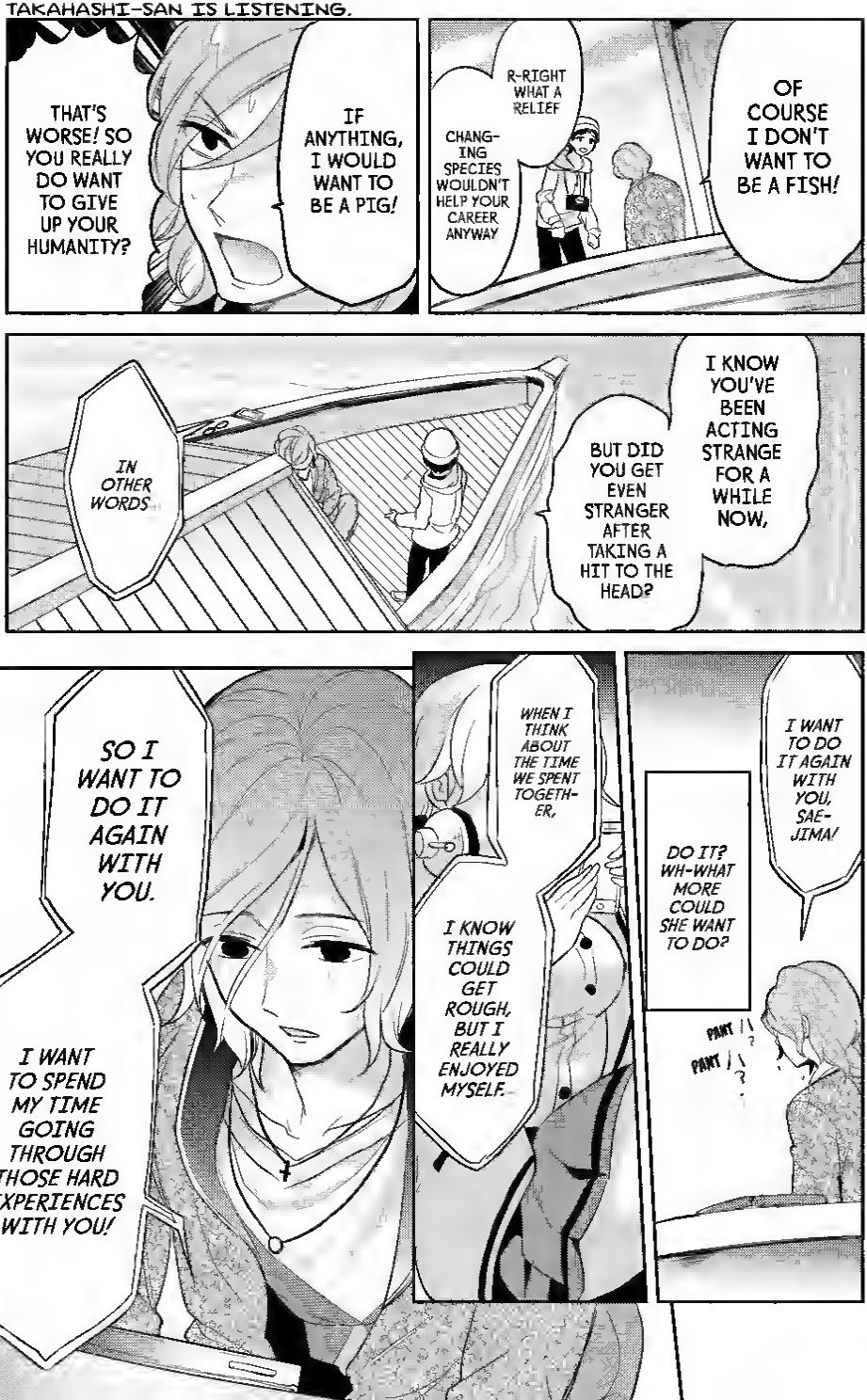
SO YOU'RE INTO EROTIC ASPHYXIATION!
!
?
BUT FOR A MAN OVERFLOWING WITH TALENT LIKE ME, IT'LL BE EASY.
I JUST STOP BREATHING, RIGHT?
DAMN IT...
YOU REALLY DON'T GIVE ANY TIME FOR WARMUPS
YOUR AVERAGE MAN WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TAKE IT.
? ?
DON'T YOU THINK SO, SORA--
WOW. THE ROADSIDE TREES ARE LOVELY.
I JUST NEED TO MAKE IT SO I CAN'T. I'LL JUST DO...THIS!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
AH!
SPLOOSH
I MEAN, DO YOU HAVE A REASON NOT TO BE?!
SHOULDN'T YOU BE BREATHING ANYWAY?!
DON'T GET IN MY WAY!
YOU MADE ME TAKE A BREATH!
SAE-JIMA
OH NO! HER MAJESTY'S ORDERS!
W-WELL, I GUESS SOME PEOPLE ROLL LIKE THAT, BUT STILL!
YOU LIKE IT?!
YES, I DO! LOOK! IT FEELS AMA-ZING!

I... CAN'T DO ANY-THING.
CAN'T... DO ANY-THING?
DOES SHE MEAN SHE WON'T GIVE ME ANY MORE ORDERS?
WHAT IS THE MEAN-ING OF THIS?!
IS SHE JUST PLAYING HARD TO GET NOW?
NO, THAT CAN'T BE!
IF SHE WON'T GIVE ME NEW ORDERS, IT COULD ONLY MEAN ONE THING
THE LAST ORDER IS STILL IN EFFECT!
SHE'S TELLING ME THAT IF I FAILED ONCE, I SHOULDN'T GIVE UP.
IT'S A POSITIVE MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGE-MENT FROM MY QUEEN!
OH, LOOK! SOME GRADE SCHOOLERS ARE WAVING AT US.
LOOK, SORA--


WHY ARE YOU PUTTING YOUR HEAD IN THE WATER AGAIN?
YOU WENT EVEN DEEPER THIS TIME!
SPLOOSH
AH!
Y-YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

IS YOUR DREAM TO STOP BREATH-ING?!
OR ARE YOU TRYING TO SWITCH CAREERS IN YOUR TWENTIES AND BECOME A FISH?
YOU IDIOT! I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP JUST BECAUSE YOU INTERFERE!
AS LONG AS I DON'T GIVE UP, MY DREAM WILL ONE DAY COME TRUE!


OF COURSE I DON'T WANT TO BE A FISH!
R-RIGHT WHAT A RELIEF
CHANG-ING SPECIES WOULDN'T HELP YOUR CAREER ANYWAY
IF ANYTHING, I WOULD WANT TO BE A PIG!
THAT'S WORSE! SO YOU REALLY DO WANT TO GIVE UP YOUR HUMANITY?
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE FOR A WHILE NOW,
BUT DID YOU GET EVEN STRANGER AFTER TAKING A HIT TO THE HEAD?
IN OTHER WORDS...
I WANT TO DO IT AGAIN WITH YOU, SAE-JIMA!
DO IT? WH-WHAT MORE COULD SHE WANT TO DO?
PANT
PANT
WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE TIME WE SPENT TOGETH-ER,
I KNOW THINGS COULD GET ROUGH, BUT I REALLY ENJOYED MYSELF.
SO I WANT TO DO IT AGAIN WITH YOU.
I WANT TO SPEND MY TIME GOING THROUGH THOSE HARD EXPERIENCES WITH YOU!

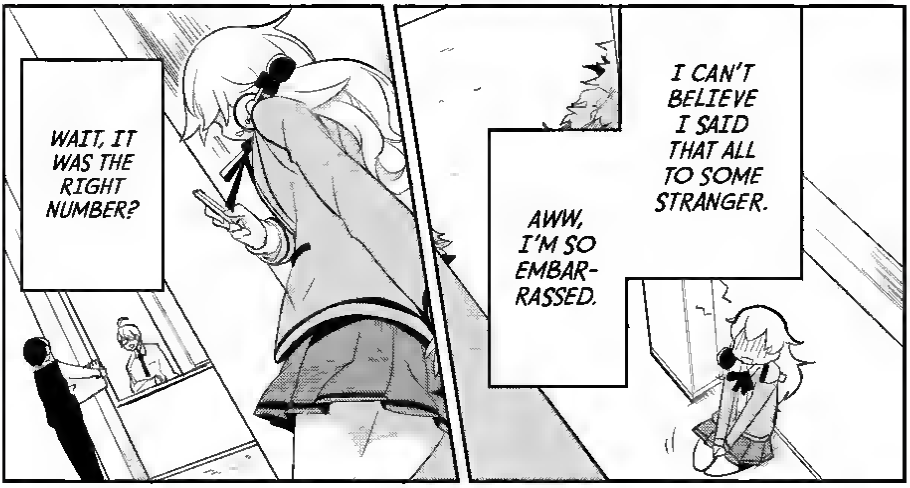
GYAAAH!
SPEND TIME DOING THE HARD THINGS TOGETHER?

SORA--NO, TADAO-SAN! YOU'RE COUGHING UP BLOOD!
HARD IS FUN...AND... EVERY DAY...
NO WAIT, THAT'S A NOSE BLEED.
EITHER WAY, I'D BETTER CALL AN AMBU-LANCE
ENA ENA TAKA-HASHI...
AS MY SADISTIC QUEEN, YOU'RE FAR TOO KIND
THAT YOU'D GIVE AN UNWORTHY MAN LIKE ME A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE THIS DREAM EVERY DAY
AH... AH...

WHA?!
YOU ARE MY ONE TRUE QUEEN!
IT'S UNDENI-ABLE...
WHO ...
WHO IS THIS?!
CRAP, I ACCIDEN-TALLY SAID SOME-THING!
I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT I'D DO ANY-THING FOR YOU, MY QUEEN!
HUH?!
TADAO-SAN, CALM DOWN!
WAIT, REALLY, WHO IS THIS?
LET ME SHOW YOU THE MAN I REALLY AM THROUGH THE PHONE!

SPLOOSH
I WILL PLEASE YOU BY SHOWING YOU JUST HOW LOWLY A SERVANT I AM!
TADAO-SAN! SIT DOWN! WE'RE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL!
I OFFER YOU THE BEAUTIFUL SOUND OF SPLASHING WATER AS I SUBMERGE MYSELF!
FWIP
I-I'M SORRY! I HAD THE WRONG NUMBER!
SILENCE

I-I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T NOTICE I HAD THE WRONG NUMBER.
BUT HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING FOR SO LONG...
AND THEN IT WAS NOTHING BUT NON-SENSE.


I CAN'T BELIEVE I SAID THAT ALL TO SOME STRANGER.
AWW, I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED.
WAIT, IT WAS THE RIGHT NUMBER?

DID SAEJIMA CHANGE HER NUMBER?
NO WAY, RIGHT? SHE COULDN'T HAVE.
THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D NEVER WANT TO TALK TO ME EVER AGAIN, RIGHT?

WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW, SAE-JIMA?
PEOPLE AND
THE RIVER
HEE HEE. THIS TOWN SURE IS BUSY.
I THINK I'LL LEAVE ALL MY SADNESS BEHIND ME.
DO YOU MIND A NEW CON-TRACT?
N-NO, THAT'S FINE
A SMARTPHONE REALLY ISN'T SOMETHING YOU SHOULD JUST TOSS OUT.
ALLOW ME TO PROVE MY FAITHFUL-NESS! ÷GURGLE÷
TADAO-SAN!
SAVE
100% OFF

A FEW DAYS LATER
OH! I SEE YOU FINALLY GOT A SMART-PHONE.
THAT CASE IS TOTALLY ENCRUSTED WITH BARNACLES. IT SUITS YOU
IT'S JUST SOME-THING I PICKED UP WHEN IT WASHED ASHORE.

English Digital Edition
Chapter 061

Takahashi-san is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。
Yu Hokuo

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